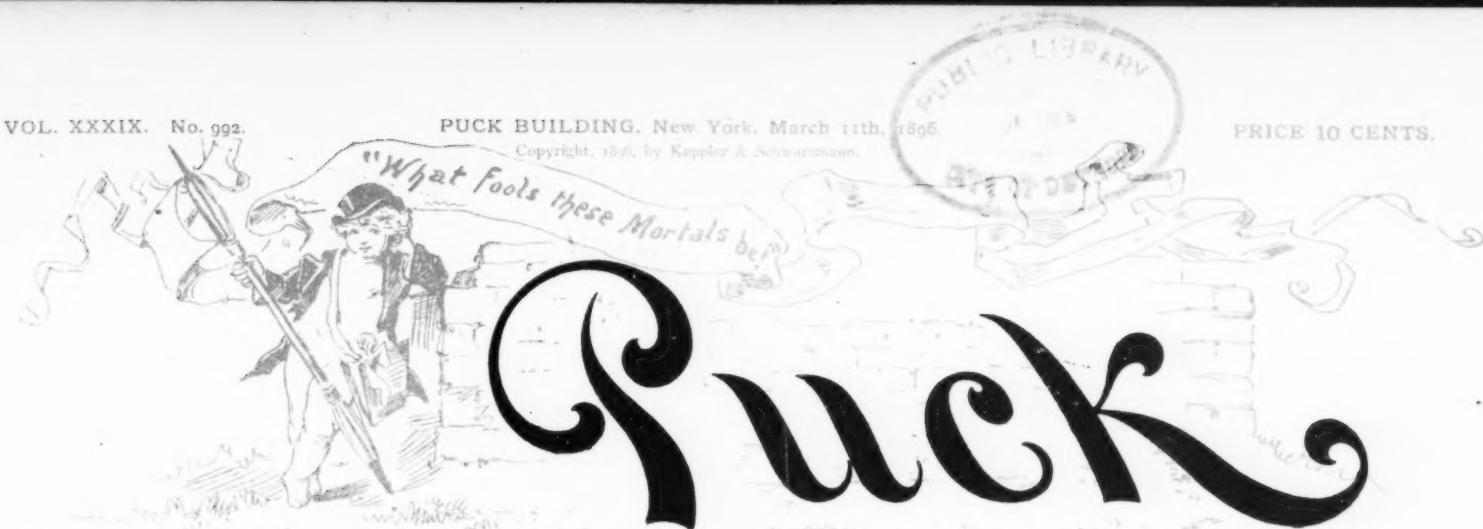


VOL. XXXIX. No. 992.

PUCK BUILDING, New York, March 11th, 1896.

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HE 'LL NEVER CATCH IT.

PUCK



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A HOTTENTOT FULTON.

They have no steamboats on the Congo, but with the assistance of a couple of water dogs they manage pretty well.

NOT AN AUTHORITY.

JONES.—Here is a statement that "Japan is determined to assert her hegemony over the Western Pacific." What the dickens is hegemony?

ROBINSON.—How should I know? I never studied Japanese.



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ON GUARD.

ROBBINS.—I did n't know you had organic heart trouble, Bright's disease, hereditary consumption and hardening of the liver!

ROBBINS.—I have n't.

ROBBINS.—But you insinuated as much to that man who just went out.

ROBBINS.—I know. He is a friend of mine and a life insurance agent.

A RUMOR.

"I wonder if that report is true about the Vice-President?"

"What is it?"

"They say that at the end of his term he will re-enter public life."

WHEN POLITICS make strange bedfellows it is not long before there is a quarrel about the covers.



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A ONE-SIDED EXPERIMENT.

BARBER.—Now, there is one man using this hair restorer—when he began he was almost entirely bald—

CUSTOMER (interrupting).—Oh, well! it could n't hurt *him* a great deal.

A FOE TO ALL HIS KIND.

FIRST BOARDER.—They say the new Spanish commander is a butcher.

SECOND BOARDER.—Pity our landlady can't go to Cuba! She'd soon get the better of him.

A POOR OPINION.

CUMSO.—Do you think that Schlatter, the Western healer, is crazy, Doctor?

DR. PARESIS.—He must be. He does n't charge for his treatment.

MISSING THE MAIN POINT.

SOX.—There 's one part, and the main one, where Nixey fails in his much-vaunted imitation of Sir Henry Irving.

BUSKIN.—Why, he 's considered perfect! What is it?

SOX.—Making Sir Henry's money.



E PLURIBUS UNUM.

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MR. GOTHAM (*at a ball in Chicago*).—Who are those men talking to Mrs. Maney?
MISS LAKESIDE.—Her husband.

A THRILLING MOMENT.

ACAVALRY COMPANY, part of that terrible squadron known as the Banded Bloomerites, was drawn in line just within the gates of the beleaguered city, ready at a moment's notice to dash out and fall upon the besiegers. They felt secure, notwithstanding the rumor that the enemy, which was mainly composed of horrid men, had several large cages filled with live mice, which they intended to set free at an opportune moment; for this cavalry, unlike some attached to the

U. S. army, rode horses.

"Ready, girls; fix your hats on straight, carry your swords in your needle-hands; and when we meet the enemy, cut 'em bias," was the command that came from the lips of Col. Ethel Scrap-person.

At this thrilling moment a plump orderly from headquarters rode up on a brunette horse and imparted the direful information that the enemy had forced several points in the city's wall and surrender was inevitable.

"And," continued the little orderly, dolefully, "girls, our powder is all gone."

"What!" shrieked the cavalry, in unison.

Their stern colonel had even manifested emotion, and turned pale at this announcement. But, for a moment. Turning abruptly to the horse-woman she gave the following order, which immediately dispelled all gloom:

"Ride instantly to the commissary and send a barrel of flour here with all dispatch. If the powder is all gone, we can use flour, in a pinch, for I won't let my girls surrender looking like frights."

Jas. Dunn Cranley.

THE GOLD DOLLAR and the suburban servant-girl seem to be equally indisposed to remain in the country.

MISERY MAY love company; but the host should remember that the guest is not likely to reciprocate.

UNEXPECTED SEVERITY.

FRIEND.—It is, indeed, a very unfavorable criticism.

ACTRESS.—Extremely! I did not think that any one except my understudy had such a poor opinion of me.



AN EFFECTUAL METHOD.

FIRST WESTERNER.—Did ye hear that Tornado Pete committed suicide?

SECOND WESTERNER.—How did he do it?

FIRST WESTERNER.—Stole a horse.

PUCK.



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A NATURAL QUESTION.

MR. COONLY.—I done got me a pa'r ob shoes at the sto', jes' now.

MR. MOAK.—Whar was de sto'-keeper?

APPROPRIATE.

DE RUYTER.—All Bohemia turned out at the funeral of Prazzybylewski, the pianist. Rather appropriate thing, too, his friend Squeallino, the tenor, sang.

PHIL ISTINE.—I was n't there. What did he sing?

DE RUYTER.—That thing from "Trovatore"—"Though I no more behold thee, yet is thy name a spell!"

ADVICE OF AN EXPERT.

HOJACK.—I don't know what to do with that dog. I've tried a dozen times to give him away, but no one will have him.

TOMDIK.—Tried to give him away, did you? That's no way to get rid of a dog. Ask forty-five or fifty dollars for him.



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A FALSE ALARM.

HE (*rising*).—Well, dear, I think I shall have to say good-night.
SHE.—Oh—I thought you were going!

NOBLESSE OBLIGE.

"My father—" The English girl's eye flashed proudly.

"Led the Six Hundred at Balaklava!"

The American maid smiled superciliously.

"My mother—"

She paused to add impressiveness to her words.

"Leads the Four Hundred in New York!"

Satisfying herself that she had given her English cousin a Roland for her Oliver, she turned the talk from international affairs to Paris gowns, and forbore to exult.

THERE WOULD BE TIME ENOUGH.

"I had a couple of minutes to spare," said Mr. Ternal Bore to Mr. Bizzy Day, "so I thought I'd drop in on you."

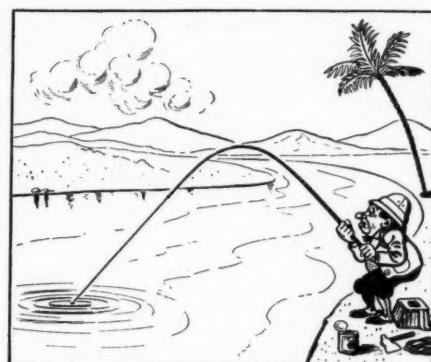
"Good enough!" replied Mr. Day, effusively. "Sit right down and tell me all you know."

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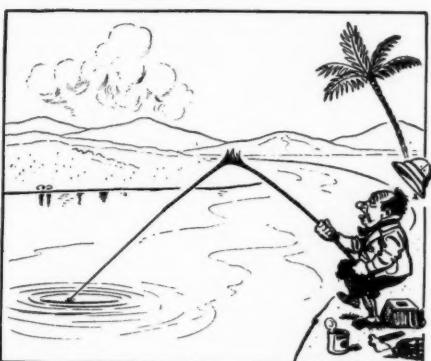
"WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY."
A FISH STORY.



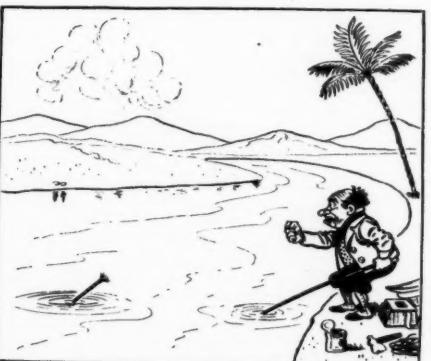
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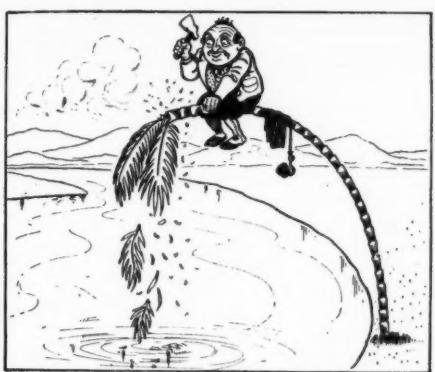
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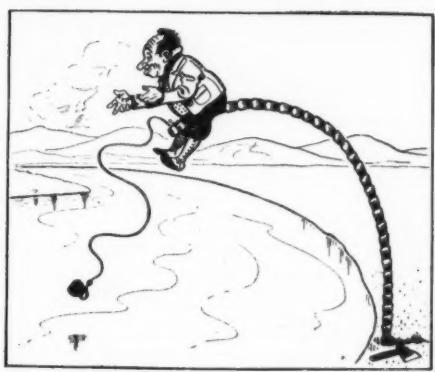
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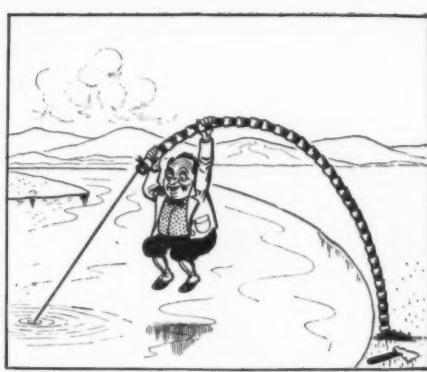
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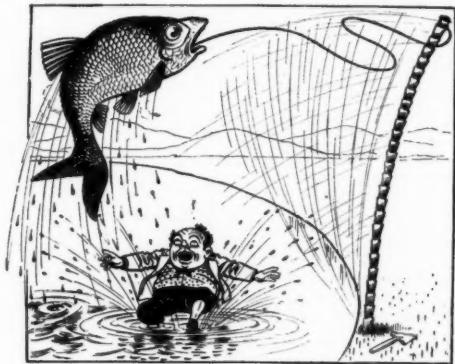
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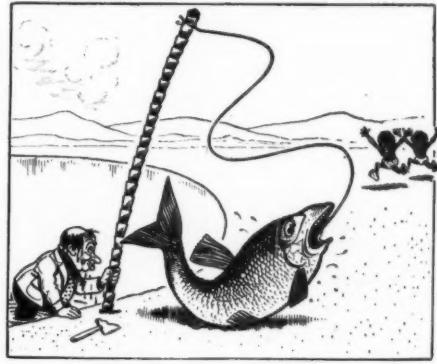
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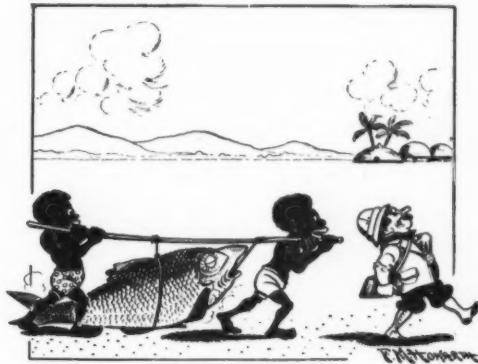
VIII.



IX.



X.



XI.

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HARDENED.

"I just saw a man slip on a banana peel, and he came up smiling and never said an unpleasant word."
"I guess he must be learning to ride a bike."

AN ECONOMIST.

GLADYS.—Mr. Pennypacker told me he took you to the Church fair last night and spent a most enjoyable evening.

MABEL (with a sigh).—Yes; but that was about all.



ONE OF MANY.

"I hear that Miller is in a tight place."
"How?"
"Moved into a Harlem flat."

EXTENDING THE PRINCIPLE.

STREET CAR SUPERINTENDENT.—It strikes me that would be a good addition to our rules.

ASSISTANT.—What is it?

SUPERINTENDENT.—Ladies who can not agree as to which shall pay the fare are requested to submit the dispute to the arbitration of the conductor, who will render a decision promptly.

A CHICAGO PECULIARITY.

MRS. CUMSO.—Abdul Hamid has a new wife every year.
MRS. CAWKER (who did not catch the name).—What Chicago gentleman are you speaking of?

CRITICS OF THE MELODRAMA.

JIMMY.—Say, de detectives wuz no good, wuz they?
TOMMY.—Dey were dead slow. I wuz onto de feller what killed de old man, right from de start.

THE NARROW path is not narrow enough to suit certain narrow-minded people.

THEY MERELY EXISTED.

PROFESSOR (lecturing).—Oxygen, gentlemen, is essential to all animal existence; there could be no life without it. Strange to say, it was not discovered until a century ago, when—

STUDENT.—What did they do before it was discovered, Professor?

REMEMBER, MY son, that the mule that gets in the first kick usually wins the battle.



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MORE APPROPRIATE.

PROMINENT NATIVE.—We are striving to make Waybackville a Summer resort.

CITY MAN.—H'm! From what I've seen of the place, I should think it would make a better last resort.



A BELIEVER IN PROFIT-SHARING.

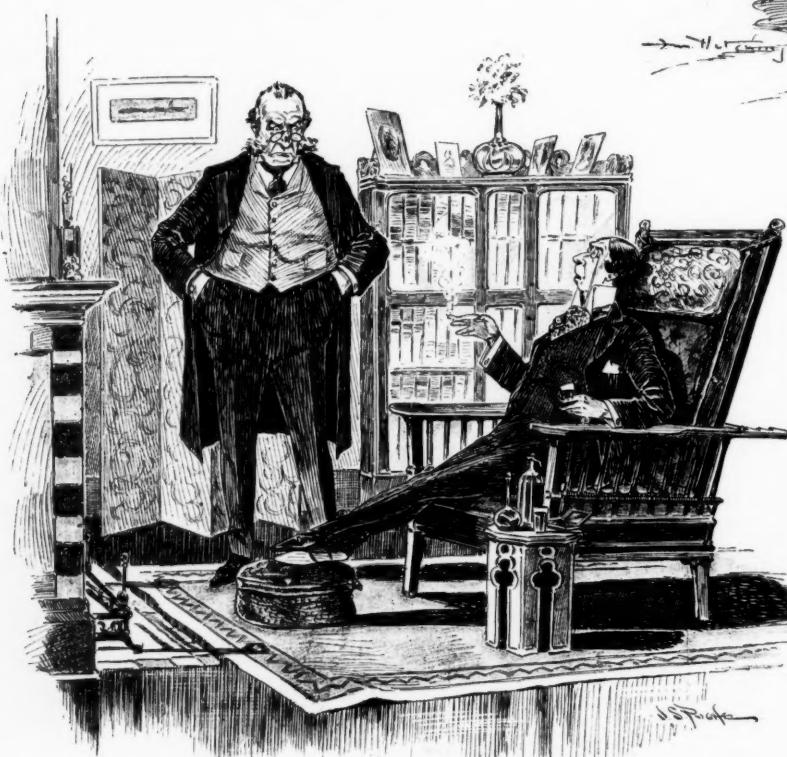
EMPLOYER.—Vot's dot? Did n't I raise your salary a vile ago?

OFFICE-BOY.—It vos more as six months ago.

EMPLOYER.—Vell, you t'ink I must gif you more vages efery time I make an assignment?

ALL IS not gold that mining certificates represent.

AMBITION IS of two kinds—to work, and to live without work.



OF THE GREATEST USE.

FATHER (*angrily*).—I don't see of what use you are in this world, any how. You are nothing but a mere spendthrift.

SON.—A spendthrift! Aw—me deah fathah, you wrong me, y' know. Why, I am actually a philanthropist!

FATHER (*astounded*).—Philanthropist? Bah!

SON.—Yes. Just see how much money I keep in circulation!

PUCK.

OL' NUTMEG'S SAYINGS.

Don't ever poke fun at the looks uv older people. A good many times the young folks er more ter blame fur the'r looks than they be the'rseives.

Take things ez they come; then use yewr own discretion ez tew what yew'll dew with 'em.

A still tongue never gits arrested fur disturbin' the peace.

Any man orter be willin' tew put ez much in the contrybution box ez he puts intew turbacker.

Give the boy a chance sometimes instid uv a lickin'.

They's a vast diffunce in the feelin's uv the ower an' the owed.

Joe Cone.

THE MILLENNIUM.

I tell you wot I'm a-gona do
W'en I git to be as big as you:
I'm gona have a gun, an' smoke, an' vote,
An' I ain't gona wear no overcoat.



HOW THE FEUD STARTED.

MCGURK.—Thot's me woife!

O'TOOLE.—Introjuice me.

MCGURK.—Oi dassent! She's in an awful humor this day, an' Oi would n't do ony'ing t' offind her.

THE SITUATION.

"Your marriage to the pork-packer's daughter," said the Countess-dowager, "will humble our ancestral pride in the dust."

"That's right, Mother," said the young Earl, calmly; "she has the dust."



AN INSULT AVENGED.

JOSH FIELDS.—Young Sellers's trade's fell off half 'n the last three months.

JAY BARNES.—It ot'er, b'gosh! He's went 'n' gone 'n' bought a printin' machine ter send out bills with, tryin' ter insinnerate that folks as has traded with the gol-durned firm, goin' on thutty years, can't read writin'!

WHERE THEY ARE USEFUL.

FRIEND.—I see that you are advertising your soap more exten sively than ever.

SOAP MAN.—Yes; we've hired an extra poet laureate.

THE PEN ought to be mightier than the sword, because it gets a great deal more exercise.

PUCK.



PUCK, PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY.

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\$2.50 for six months. \$1.25 for three months.

Payable in advance.

Keppler & Schwarzmann,
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Editor - - - - - H. C. Bunner.

Wednesday, March 11th, 1896.—No. 992.

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CARTOONS AND COMMENTS.

"THESE DEGENERATE TIMES."

THE THOUGHTFUL American who was old enough twenty years ago to take serious notice of things is apt to hold that the present is a time not only out of joint but full of compound fractures in intellect and morals. He may not believe that degeneracy is so common as Dr. Nordau says it is, but he can point to numerous signs that say we are coming to no good end. The chief count in his indictment against the present age is its reckless use of the most harmful kind of stimulants. "This is an age of cocktails," he says, bluntly. "I do not use the word in its narrow sense—but rather as a generic covering all the baneful narcotics, material and mental, to which we are fast becoming slaves. The cocktail habit has grown upon us; we have given it an important office in every department of life. We are no longer content with the mixture of whiskey and vermouth and its tang of bitters to wake up a stomach sleepy from over-work. But we must have literary cocktails and art cocktails and musical and dramatic cocktails. Our mental and moral as well as our physical nourishment must carry illegitimate powers of stimulation."

"Read the advertising signs in a street-car. At least a third of them extol the virtues of some kind of cocktail. The signs call them tonics, but they are cocktails, nevertheless. They promise relief to tired brain-workers—or they agree to rebuild shattered nervous systems. Perhaps they do; but their prevalence argues that this generation has been using its brain to unwise excess and shattering its nervous system with awful diligence. Overwork is n't responsible for all of it, either. Not a few of these remedies profess frankly to atone to one's system in the morning for the debauch of the night before. Twenty years ago we had none of these. Is it unfair to say that we live less wisely now—that we are prouer to over-work and to over-dissipate and to overdraw our account of vitality? And we begin early, too. We even have cocktails for our babies. I counted seven advertisements for as many brands of scientific infants' food yesterday. Nearly all of them used pictures of fat, laughing babies to attest their merits, and I would n't say a word against them—but they seem to be made on the cocktail principle; and I doubt if there's any more scientific infants' food in the world than the kind on which you and I were raised, with Mother's valuable help."

"Run down the list of literary cocktails. The Muse of story-writing has taken to the streets. Love, as defined by the modern novel, is the art of finding excuses for breaking the Seventh Commandment. The author

calls it a problem novel; it is simply a literary 'bracer' for jaded and degenerate minds. In this country to-day there are printed something like six hundred and sixty alleged magazines that claim to be '*fin-de-siècle*' or '*decadent*'—terms we use when we wish to be nice to anything that is morally rotten. They are of no value except to the student of paresis. To him they offer abundant evidence of the ravages of the cocktail habit. The daily press, too, does its best to purvey cocktails instead of newspapers. It is still hampered by the undeniable fact that its readers expect the news of the day; but every Sunday, at least, it serves a concoction capable of making the toughest palate itch and smart. The stage has been giving us cocktails for some time—or problem plays, as they are called. The problem is generally this: 'If the leading lady deserts her husband in Act I, and elopes with the first walking gentleman, how expensive must the gowns, scenery and upholstery be to square her with the audience in the last act?' New York lately had another variety of the theatrical cocktail—a young French woman whose specialty is singing obscene songs with rare suggestiveness. The best people of New York heard and applauded her, and she makes more money out of her obscenity than any four preachers in the city make at their trade. We have some high-priced preachers, too. The people are willing to pay for their cocktails. Some of the most expensive cocktails are served in Congress. Our statesmen are no longer content to do the work they are sent to do. They must rise up and mouth war speeches at a time when there never has been so little call for them. They rant and rave and bluster about nothings, in miserable imitation of the real patriots of history's yesterday. We all have the cocktail habit in some form or other, and, unless we break ourselves of it, Society will become one vast Yellow Book, and we'll all be Beardsley illustrations."

We have given attention to this critic, and we have tried to put his case fairly; not because we agree with him, but because he is a good deal the fashion just now. The most popular critic of the day is he who points out our decadence in mind and body. His argument is plausible to the city dweller; but they are both locked in the city and know nothing of the country outside. Any country newspaper, published weekly in a town of two thousand inhabitants answers all this fashionable pessimism. A dozen of them will show that the country is in a state of excellent moral, mental and physical health. The real people to-day—the people of any real importance—are reading Scott, Thackeray and Dickens, and making ready to plant seed in the ground, in order that they may feed the world next year as they did last. They worship God, and never heard of a problem play. They smoke their pipes, but dislike cigarettes, and know nothing of champagne or absinthe. They take the country paper, find out who visited whom "over Sunday," and read the column of "Hints to Farmers." They know who is President, and they know their Congressmen. They love their country, and would fight for it, if a fight became necessary. The Senator who starts an international broil to show off his patriotism only excites their mirth. They care little for cities, rightly believing that they form a small part of the body politic. They suspect that city people lose the power of judging the country at large accurately. In short, they are not victims of the cocktail habit, as city people are apt to be; and, since they are *the* people, we think the country is safe, how gloomy soever may be the prophesies of the city critic. The city critic is too apt to forget that the town is man-made and that the country is by quite a different Workman.

THREE QUATRAINS FOR A QUARTER; NIT.



ALTHOUGH

T VEXES a poet a quatrain to write,
The limit of lines being four;
(For, of course, his idea is excessively bright,
And he wants to exploit it some more:)

YET

It's perfectly easy to write a quatrain,
The way of procedure is clear;
Get paper and pencil, then cudgel your brain
Until you have got an idea.

THE IDEA!

I have n't a doubt but that you
Have thought of this question before:
Why is it they call women "new"
Whose years count up forty, or more?

Charles Battell Loomis.

NE PLUS ULTRA.

VISITOR.—New York is still dry on Sunday, I suppose?
RESIDENT.—Dry as a Summer Girl in her new bathing-suit.

HARMONY CONSISTS in an agreement to fight after election.

IF THE United States Senators believe that a word to the wise is sufficient, the length of their speeches indicates that they size up one another pretty well.



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A NOVEL MAGNET.

MR. TOWNSEND (*visiting his friend Subbubs at Lonesomehurst*).—My gracious alive! Subbubs, what is the matter? I see policemen every way I look. You certainly don't need all the policemen to keep order here?

MR. SUBBUBS.—No; to keep our servant girls here.



C.K.



ZE IN CANDIDATEVILLE.

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MUTABILITY.

A CHANGEABLE silk waist she had,
Whose sumptuous, glossy shining,
Of all the dainty things she wore
My arm loved most entwining.

Too changeable that waist, alas!
For once I saw, astounded,
An arm, not mine; it too had changed,
By it that waist was bounded.

TAKING PICTURES.



N THE past few years the frenzy for taking pictures has grown with our growth, and strengthened with our strength, until it has become the most pervasive form of wheels that afflicts our national cranium. By "taking pictures" I do not mean the living pictures that are so taking. No; I rather refer to the art of taking pictures; or, in other words, (one other word, at least,) photography.

Having for several weeks been the proprietor of a twelve-dollar camera, I am qualified to discuss the science of photography, to expound its philosophy, — in short, to do everything pertaining thereto, except to take pictures.

Photography, like the Populist party, is based on silver. Besides silver, there are several hundred other things used in photography, embracing dry plates, sensitized paper, red lanterns, toning baths, bad mistakes, and worse language.

The process of taking pictures is very simple; so very simple, in fact, that every camera contains a brochure of some seventy-two pages, telling how simple it all is. The first part treats of the exposures, of which there are two kinds, instantaneous and time.

An instantaneous exposure, or snap shot, is made in bright sunlight, by aiming the camera at the object and pressing the button. This seems dead easy, but I can't do it. Probably Buffalo Bill would make nothing of shooting a train of cars or a circus wagon on the wing; but my marksmanship is not equal to it. And then I have much difficulty with my sun. Why the sun should shine for all except a poor amateur photographer like me is a mystery. Is it fear for its personal safety that impels it to dodge behind a cloud every time I get ready to take a snap shot? It is said that Joshua commanded the sun to stand still while he took a picture; but Josh must have had a phenomenal crust, even for a camera fiend.

In a time exposure the object must remain perfectly still for anywhere from a second to half a day. Some men may be able to hypnotize a cat or a baby into quiescence for the briefest period, but here again I fail.

Developing the negative is an operation performed in a dark room, with a ruby lantern and various chemicals. As the room is usually airtight, as well as dark, a victim of asphyxia is likely to be developed when your anxious friends burst open the door.

Printing, toning, mounting, and all that, are delicate and protracted processes, which, if you follow the business up very assiduously, will leave you very little time to devote to your Presidential boom. My own experience is that, while photography is less of a fine art than literature, there is a great deal more money in it — for the supply dealer.

George A. Elder.

A WAR REMINISCENCE.

"It was just this night thirty-three years ago when General Lee broke through our lines," said the old major; "but he'd never have done it only for one thing."

"What was that?" inquired his eager listener.

"He had the aid of a lot of Confederates!" said the major, quickly.

And then he waddled off, quite pleased to think there were still people on earth who had n't heard his favorite joke.

POLITICAL AMBITION should be made of three parts jingle and one part gall.



NO HANDICAP.

FIRST BURGLAR.—I'll bet yer ten I've been arrested oftener than you have.

SECOND BURGLAR.—I'll go yer! — but yer can't count in de times when yer used to be a bar-tender.



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"PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT."

HOBSON.—I never in all my life saw a man who could so readily guess riddles and conundrums as that Henry Peck.

DOBSON.—No wonder! Just think of the practice he has. His wife keeps him guessing all the time.

IN WASHINGTON.

VISITOR.—What would be a good day to see the Senate in session?

RESIDENT.—Well, you can take your choice. On Monday and Thursday they attend to Armenia; Tuesday, Venezuela; Wednesday, Cuba; Friday, the Transvaal Republic; and Saturday—if they can spare the time—to the United States.

HAUNTED.

FIRST POLICEMAN.—Ever see Roosevelt?

SECOND POLICEMAN.—Many a time.

FIRST POLICEMAN.—Where?

SECOND POLICEMAN.—In me sleep.

REPULSED.

HE.—Will you share my lot?

SHE.—No! I do not care to break wild land.

EVER SEASONABLE.

MISS BLOOMER.—Bicycling is the ideal sport all the year round.

PRETTIWIT.—So I should judge. When it is warm you coast, and when it is cold you scorch.

FAR FROM IT.

FLORA.—Is he as stupid as he looks?

CORA.—Oh, no! He has a wealthy aunt.

SOME OF the heaviest books have little or nothing in them.



Hear this!!

Enervated, Run Down & Flaccid,
Enfeebled, & Debilitated, Ennuye,
Satiated, Fatigued, & Exhausted,
Unnerved, & Unstrung, Forceless,
Hypochondriacal, Over-wrought,
Tired, Distraught, Valetudinary.

This is a fine collection, isn't it? There are about four hundred more. Just look them over and see if you don't need spring medicine. If you can't find your trouble, consult the dictionary.

We did. What's the good of telling symptoms? You know you need something to brace you up. You do need spring medicine. You know it. We know it. Here it is.

Pabst Malt Extract
The "Best" Tonic.

25c a bottle, \$2.50 a dozen.
At druggists'

THE CELEBRATED SOHMER

Pianos are the Best.

Warehouses: 149-155 E. 14th St., New York.

CAUTION.—The buying public will please not confound the SOHMER Piano with one of a similarly sounding name of cheap grade. Our name spells—

SOHMER.



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OF THE HIGHEST ORDER OF EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE ARE CONDUCTED AT THESE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

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Men's Woolens.*

English Trouserings.

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"Clay's" Serges and Tibets,
Black and Blue Diagonals.

English, Irish and Scotch Sutlings,
Stripes, Checks and Mixtures.

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Golf and Bicycle Tweeds,
Covert Coatings.

White and Colored Ducks.

Russian Crash.

Broadway & 19th St.

NEW YORK.

SOLILOQUY
of the

• "BENEDICT" •

Cuff and Collar Button:



"Wherever I be, my lovers find me!"

BENEDICT BROTHERS, Jewelers,
Broadway & Cortlandt St., N. Y.
Manufactured for the Trade by
ENOS RICHARDSON & CO.,
23 Maiden Lane, N. Y.
SEND FOR CIRCULAR.

WHOEVER would learn how to talk well, must first learn how to keep still.—*Ram's Horn*.

Erie Bicycles

Have Won Popularity.

Erie Bicycles

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JOHNNY.—Yes Ma; I made believe that there was another little boy spending the day with me.—*Texas Sister*.

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FLOSSIE.—I should say he had. You ought to see how easily he keeps a cigarette in his mouth when he's talking.—*Roxbury Gazette*.

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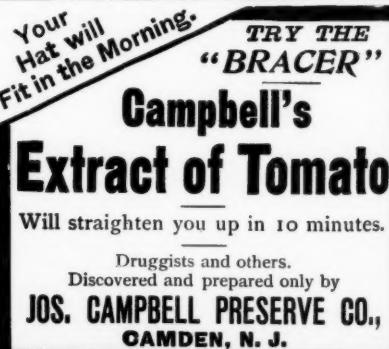
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THE man who can learn from his own mistakes, can always be learning something.—Ram's Horn.

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MRS. HAYSEED (in hotel dining-room). — What a bright light those lamps give!

MR. HAYSEED (whisperingly). — Say what a bright light those gas-jets, Marier; them ain't lamps.

MR. HAYSEED Yes; as I was saying, what a bright light those gas-jets give; guess they're fresh trimmed. — *New York Weekly.*

A BOY never says his school-teacher is nice; if he likes her, he says she is n't as mean as the others.— *Atchison Globe.*

MANY a man who likes to stand up and talk nice in church, never gives up his seat in a crowded street car. — *Ram's Horn.*



A TENDER HEART.

HOTEL GUEST (in the West). — So you recently came from farther West?

WAITER.—Yes, sah; far West. Got disgusted wif de morals ob dat section, sah. De Waiahah's Danite Union used to lynch guests wot guy less nor one dollar, sah; an' I could n't stand that. No, sah! I don't considah a man ought to be hurt unless he gives less nor fifty cents, sah!—*New York Weekly.*

ABILITY.

DUBZEBY. — I hear that Razley is a candidate for a four-thousand-dollar position in city hall?

DOOBEBY. — Is he able to fill it?

DUBZEBY. — No; but he's able to get it.— *Roxbury Gazette.*

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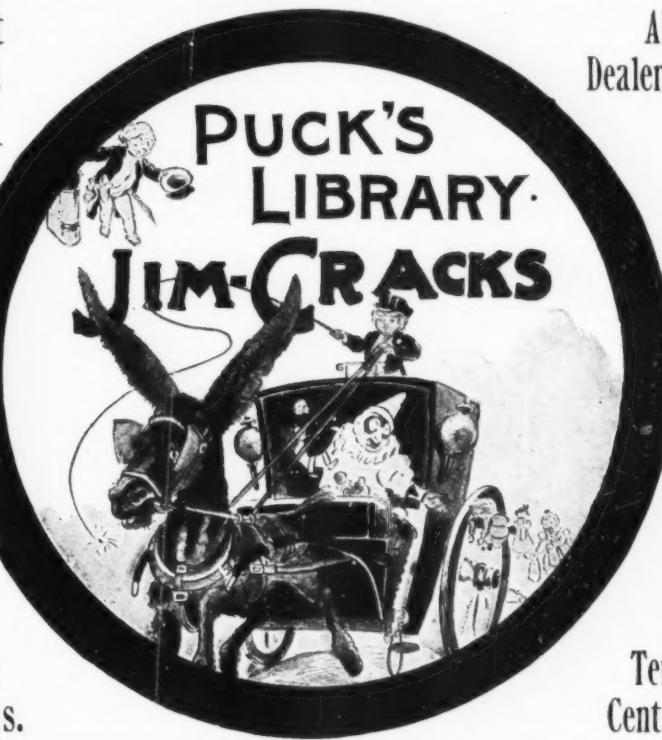
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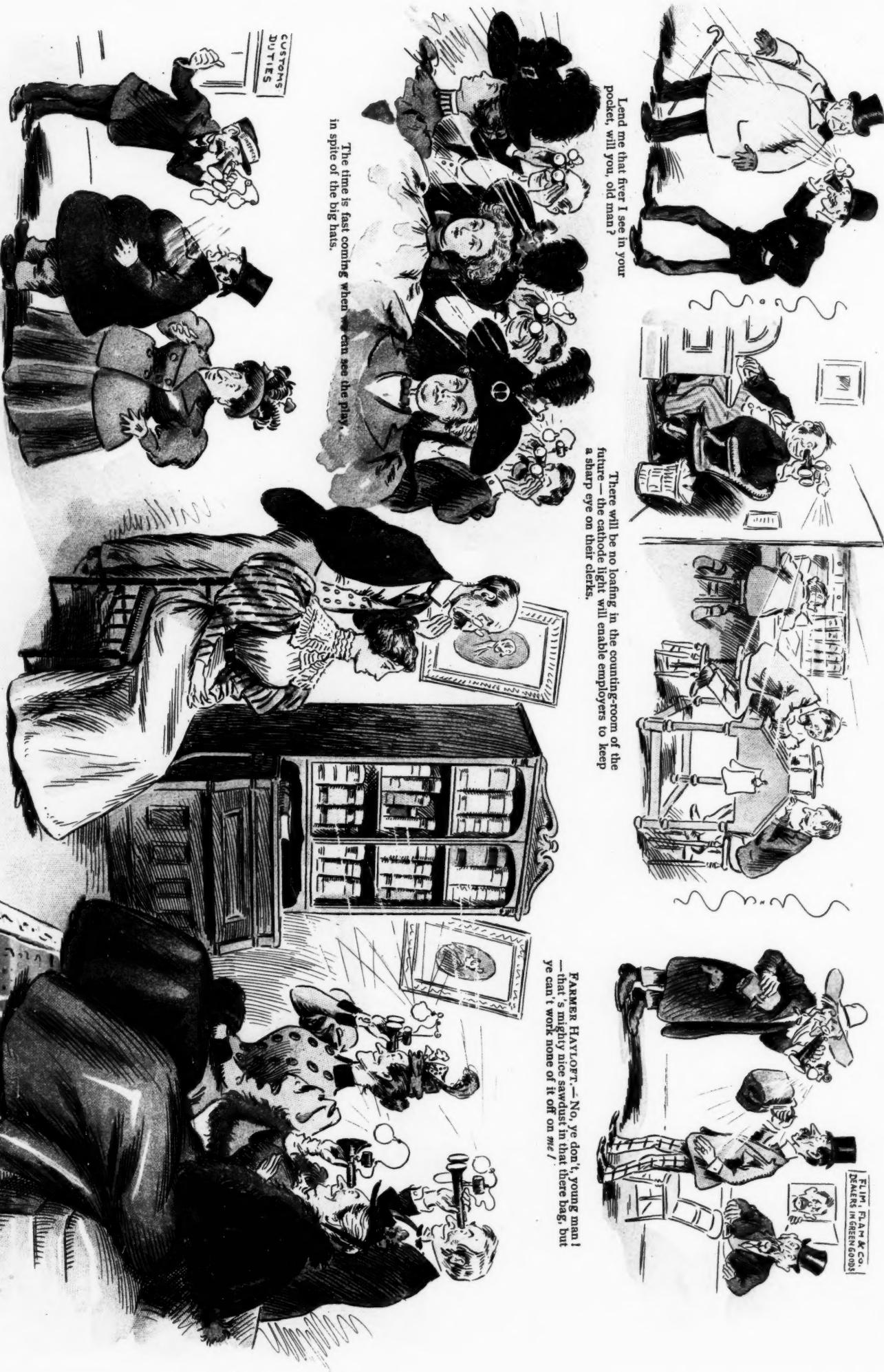
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